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ACTION MEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 AID-07 INR-10 SS-15 CIAE-00 ICA-11
CODE-00 H-01 IO-14 NSC-05 NSAE-00 SY-05 HA-06
PH-09 PA-01 OCT-02 SSN-03 RP-10 ACDA-12 SSN-02
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R 030546Z MAY 81
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9683

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 05630

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD DATED 29 APR IS
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PESHAWAR 0268

E.O. 12065: RDS-4 1/29/01 (ARCHARD, D.B.) OJ-N
TAGS: PEPN PINS PINT HOPS SREF
SUBJECT: C - BIG REFUGEE INFLUX INTO KURRAH TRIBAL AGENCY; LOCALS
UNHAPPY

REF: A) PESHAWAR 0228; B) PESHAWAR 0248

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. A TURI (SHIU PATHUN) TRIBESMAN AND LANDOWNER FROM THE
NWFP'S KURRAH TRIBAL AGENCY SAYS THAT THERE WAS INDEED A MASSIVE
RECENT INFLUX OF AFGHAN REFUGEES FROM THE NEARBY KHOST AREA IN
PAKTIA PROVINCE. US REPORTED IN THE PAKISTANI PRESS. THE ARRIVAL
OF THE AFGHANS, PRIMARILY SAGGI PATHANS WITH A FEW HINDU
"BASARIS", HAS CONSIDERABLY HEIGHTENED LOCAL ANXIETIES CON-
CERNING THE REFUGEE PRESENCE, ACCORDING TO SOURCE. HE IS A
MAN WHOSE VILLAGE IS IN THE CENTER OF LAND ON WHICH THE AFGHANS
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HAVE SETTLED AND WHO PERSONALLY KNOWS ODD SABRIS AND THEIR LEAD-

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ER. SOURCE SAID THE ACTUAL NUMBER OF FAMILIES INVOLVED, WHILE MORE THAN LARGE ENOUGH TO SEVERELY STRAIN LOCAL RESOURCES AND HOSPITALITY, IS PROBABLY CLOSER TO 10,000 FAMILIES THAN THE 20,000 REPORTED IN THE PRESS.

3. THE TURI KHAN TOLD VICE CONSUL PHIL COVINGTON APRIL 28 THAT THE GROUP FROM KHOST HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY PUSHED OFF THEIR LAND AND INTO PAKISTAN BY DRA FORCES. AN AFGHAN GENERAL HAD TOLD THEIR LEADER, NANOOR ALI JAN, A FORMER MP UNDER ZAHIR SHAH, THAT HE AND HIS TRIBE WERE "NOT WANTED". TO DRIVE THE POINT THROGH SOME OF THEIR VILLAGES AROUND KHOST HAD BEEN BOMBED, DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE SADRIS HAD DONE NOTHING AS A GROUP TO OPPOSE THE KARNAL REGIME. IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS AND ALSO BECAUSE THEY HAD SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF ANTI-DRA ELEMENTS, WHO THEY CLAIMED ROBBED THEM, THAT THE SADRI TRIBE DECIDED TO SEEK REFUGE IN KURRAM.

4. WITHIN THE AGENCY, THEY ARE NOW SETTLED BY THEMSELVES IN A NUMBER OF NEWLY-FORMED CAMPS ALONG THE WEST BANK OF THE KURRAM RIVER BETWEEN THE VILLAGES OF TANGAI AND ALIZAI. THIS IS LAND OWNED PRIMARILY BY MEMBERS OF THE ALWAYS-VOCAL TURI TRIBE.

5. SOURCE TOLD COVINGTON THAT, EVEN BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF THIS LATEST WAVE OF AFGHANS INTO THE TROUBLED KURRAM AGENCY (SEE REPTTEL A), LOCAL ATTITUDES TOWARD THE REFUGEES HAD CHANGED FROM SYMPATHY AND PATIENCE TO FEAR AND RESENTMENT. HE CITED THREE MAIN REASONS FOR THIS REVERSAL:

6. FIRST, THE SQUATTERS HAVE IMPOSED AN INCREASING BURDEN ON ALREADY SCARCE RESOURCES. MUCH OF THE LAND ON WHICH THEY HAVE SETTLED OR BEEN SETTLED HAS AT LEAST POTENTIALLY AGRICULTURAL. THEIR SHEEP AND CATTLE HAVE GRAZED BARE LARGE AREAS BEYOND
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THEIR SETTLEMENTS, TO THE POINT THAT MANY LOCAL FARMERS HAVE BEEN FORCED TO SELL ALL OR SOME OF THEIR STOCK.

7. SECOND, THE REFUGEES ARE INCREASINGLY SEEN AS A SECURITY THREAT. THOUGH THERE HAVE NOT, AS YET, BEEN MANY INCIDENTS INVOLVING CRIMES AGAINST LOCALS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE VIOLENT SUSPICION AMONG THE AFGHANS THEMSELVES, AND IT IS FEARED THAT THIS WILL SPILL OVER. ALSO, "MOST" OF THE GUNS AND OTHER WEAPONS WHICH THE MUJAHIDEEN OBTAIN ON JIHAD ARE SOLD IN KURRAM - OFTEN TO "UNRELIABLE ELEMENTS".

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8. THIRD, LOCAL PEOPLE INCREASINGLY SEE THE AFGHANS AS HAVING COME TO THEIR COUNTRY FOR FREE LAND AND HANDOUTS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PAKISTANI PEOPLE. SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT LEADER OF SABRI REFUGEE GROUP REFERRED TO SHELTER AND OTHER RELIEF PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, WHEREAS "IT'S OUR LAND AND OUR TAXES, NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S."

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9. AS HOSTILITY TOWARDS REFUGEES WAXES, SOURCE SAID, LOCAL
SUPPORT FOR GOP POLICY OF WELCOME AND RELIEF EFFORT WAXES.

10. COMMENT: KURRAM TRIBAL AGENCY IS CLEARLY THE GOP'S WORST
PROBLEM AREA IN THE NWFP IN TERMS OF LOCAL/REFUGEE RELATIONS.
IF REGISTRATION FIGURES ARE ACCURATE, REFUGEES THERE NOW OUT-
NUMBER PAKISTANIS. MOREOVER, THERE IS A PROPORTIONALLY HIGHER
CONCENTRATION OF SHIA MUSLIMS (PRIMARILY TURKIS) IN KURRAM THAN
IN ANY OF THE PROVINCE'S OTHER AGENCIES OR DISTRICTS. AS WE
HAVE BEEN REPORTING SINCE LAST FALL, SHIA ANTI-PATHY TOWARDS THE
OVERWHELMINGLY SUNNI REFUGEE POPULATION IS ANOTHER POTENTIAL
CAUSE OF FRICTION IN AREAS LIKE KURRAM AND D.I. KHAN WITH LARGE
SHIA COMMUNITIES. FINALLY, BECAUSE OF ITS STRATEGIC LOCATION AS
A SALIENT THRUSTING DEEP INTO AFGHANISTAN TO WITHIN FIFTY-FIVE
MILES OF KABUL, KURRAM IS AN IMPORTANT STAGING AREA FOR THE
AFGHAN JIHAD. HENCE, OF COURSE, IT HAS MORE THAN ITS SHARE OF
ASSERTIVELY ARMED ALIENS - ANOTHER GOOD REASON FOR PUBLIC
ANXIETY.

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11. COMMENT CONTINUED:

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B/a.

12. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REPORT FURTHER ON THE SASPI REFUGEE
GROUP WITHIN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. ARCHARD END OF QUOTATION HUNNEL

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